ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A single age-bit may provided for each line in a cache, or for each index. Each time a line, or index, is accessed, or written, the corresponding age-bit is set to a first logical state. A state machine periodically checks the status of each age-bit. If an age-bit is in the first logical state, the state machine sets the age-bit to a second logical state. If the age-bit is already in the second logical state, then the line of data corresponding to the age-bit, or at least one line in the set of lines corresponding to the index corresponding to the age-bit, has not been accessed or changed since the last time the state machine checked the age-bit, and may be preemptively evicted.

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